



Small Forest Landowner Office

Newsletter

June, 2010

Quick pick

[Program updates](#)

[Featured Article](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[News](#)

[Weather](#)

[Links](#)

Welcome

Fire season is coming quickly. This year's fire season started early for some of us in the office with a 2 week assignment to Alaska. The limited access, explosive fuels, and lack of resources make fighting wildfires in Alaska challenging. This serves as a reminder to make sure your forest property is as wildfire proof as possible by reducing understory brush along roads, keeping gates locked, and actively managing to keep your forest healthy. This applies to east and west forest types. Learn more at the [DNR fire website](#).

This month's feature article is on *Summertime precipitation events in eastern Oregon and Washington*. Nick Bond, our Washington state climatologist, is the contributing author this month. He can be reached at Nicholas.Bond@noaa.gov.

If you did not know, when text contained within the newsletter is underlined and highlighted in blue it means it is a live hyperlink that will take you to a website or

email the person. On some adobe versions you need to hold down the control key and then click on the link.

If you know of individuals or group that would like to receive the newsletter please direct them to the [SFLO Overview](#) page and use the e-subscribe feature under related links. If you would like to have additional topics, your story, event, or update covered please feel free to email the SFLO at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov. You can also find us at the [SFLO Overview](#) page on our website.

SFLO and Stewardship Program updates

SFLO The office is developing an online interactive help guide for Alternate Plans. The guide will also be available for at home printing or via request. Alternate plans guidance was expressed as a need via the recent customer survey. The new guide should be available by mid-summer. As always, if you have a suggestion for this project please share your idea.

FFFPP The office has been working on several funding proposals to secure long term monetary support for FFFPP. Early this month we submitted a joint proposal with Pacific, Grays Harbor and Lewis Conservation Districts for NRCS pilot funding. Additionally we are working the BPA and the Governor's office to explore funding for fish passage correction from national sources.

The cut off for this year's application period is June 30th. Currently we have 46 new applicants for the year out of a goal of 60. We want to make sure the need for funding is annually known and expressed to the Legislature so if you have potential barriers or know of those that do, please call Rick Kuykendall or download and fill out the FFFPP application and send it to us. Rick Kuykendall, rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov, or call 360.902.1404.

Riparian Open Space Program The deadline has passed for this year's funding cycle. We received 11 applications. In 2009 Legislature allocated additional funding to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Riparian Open Space Program. This program offers an option to owners of timbered lands within unconfined channel migration zones (CMZ). As part of the Riparian Open Space Program, willing landowners can apply to donate or sell a permanent conservation easement covering the trees, or land and trees, to the DNR.

The application form and instructions, along with additional general information about the Riparian Open Space Program may be found by following the link. [Click here](#).

For questions contact Dan Pomerenk in Olympia at (360) 902-1427 or dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov.

Feature Article

Summer time precipitation events in eastern Oregon and Washington: Linkages to large-scale climate system, Nick Bond (UW), Andy Chiodi (UW), Jamie Barbour (USFS), Sim Larkin (USFS), Ed Harrison (NOAA)

The weather is generally dry east of the Cascade Mountain crest during the summer. While uncommon, significant rainfall events do occur, and are important from a variety of perspectives. For example, July rainstorms can effectively postpone the start of the forest fire season, and September storms can essentially end it. The character and frequency of these events, and their relationships to regional atmospheric circulation patterns, can now be examined with the recent availability of a data set consisting of daily precipitation on a grid with 0.25 degree spacing in latitude and longitude for the period of 1948 to the present. This work is being undertaken with the support of the US Forest Service (USFS), and is being carried out by scientists at the University of Washington, USFS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

An important step in the process has been to evaluate the gridded precipitation data from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. This evaluation has focused on selected watersheds for which daily streamflow data are available. In essence, these rivers are used as rain gauges. The idea here is to compare the major events from the gridded precipitation data with the events identified on the basis of sudden increases in streamflow. The overlap between the two sets of events is roughly 50% on the medium-sized rivers for which this technique is viable, such as the Stehekin River of Washington and the Metolius River in Oregon. Not surprisingly, the gridded precipitation appears to be more reliable in locations with more nearby weather stations, due to more data being available for assimilation. An important outcome of our evaluation is that provides a means of quantifying the uncertainty in the derived results.

An atlas is being prepared that summarizes the results of a retrospective analysis of the summers of 1948-2008. This atlas will include information on the frequency, intensity, spatial character, and seasonal timing of the major precipitation events. We expect the atlas to be useful from a forest fire management among other perspectives.

A major thrust of this project has involved the identification of the sets of characteristic atmospheric circulation patterns associated with the rainfall events. There are four distinct circulation types associated with substantial rainfall east of the Cascades. A surprising result here was how often westerly flow aloft, resembling a weaker version of a situation that occurs commonly during the winter, accompanied substantial rainfall east of the Cascade crest during the summer. These periods tended to include relatively widespread and quasi-homogeneous distributions of precipitation, whereas another circulation type, southeasterly flow, yielded much patchier distributions, due to it being an environment more conducive to thunderstorms.

A future focus of this project will be to build upon our emerging results to provide early indications of how the summertime precipitation is liable to evolve in association with global climate change. The global climate model simulations that have been conducted do not properly handle precipitation in regions of complex terrain like the Pacific Northwest in a direct sense. They are capable, in principle, of providing useful projections of future atmospheric circulation patterns. Using the empirical relationships being established based on the historical data, it may be practical to estimate probable changes in the frequency and character of these summertime rains.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Forest Landowners Management Plan and County Open Space Forestland Plan

Crossover workshop is being planned statewide starting in May. The purpose of the workshops is to develop management plans suitable for American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and County forest tax classification purposes. Tree Farmers will have the opportunity to complete a basic management plan for their ownership that will enable them to become certified through the ATFS. Washington Tree Farm Program will be sponsoring the Spokane County **June 26th**. For more info visit www.watreefarm.org or call 360.789.1265.

Conservation Programs for Small Woodland Owners Many small woodland owners in the Northwest are interested in the long-term conservation of their forests. Today there are a wide range of private and public programs that can help landowners generate income from their land while protecting and enhancing its conservation values into the future. This workshop will introduce landowners to four primary programs and market-based opportunities for optimizing the conservation value of their forestland: FSC Certification & Markets, Carbon Offset Markets, Working Forest Conservation Easements, and Federal Conservation “cost-share” Programs. Through a series of interactive “coached” classroom sessions, landowners will have an opportunity to talk directly with specialists about how these programs can apply to the unique circumstances of their land.

The session will be **July 12th** in Oakville and **July 26th** in Vancouver. For more information please contact: Kirk Hanson, kirk@nnrg.org, 360-316-9317

Carbon Markets for Small Woodland Owners will be **July 21st from 630-900 pm** in North Bend. This evening presentation will introduce small woodland owners to the carbon marketplace and what they need to do to prepare to sell carbon from their forestlands. Additionally, landowners will learn about NW Neutral, the first carbon offset program for small woodland owners in the Pacific Northwest. Topics to be discussed will include: voluntary vs. regulatory markets, current carbon prices, Forest biomass inventory data collection requirements, Carbon contracts and other legal issues, and more.

For more information on either event, please contact: Kirk Hanson, kirk@nrmg.org, 360-316-9317

Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day The annual Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day will be in the Puget Sound area for the second year in a row! The 2010 Field Day will be held Saturday July 31st in the Ravensdale area just east of Maple Valley in King County. This will be the first year the field day has been held in King County. This event is open to the public. Landowners from around the region are warmly invited to attend, as well as anyone interested in having fun and learning more about forestry and natural resources. **The Forest Stewardship Program's biggest annual event will feature hands-on sessions on a variety of forestry topics, including wildlife, forest health, silviculture, trail building, special forest products, and much more.** Learn how to properly thin and prune trees, how to plant and care for young trees, how to attract more wildlife to your property, and how to enhance your personal enjoyment of your property.

For more info visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2010FieldDay.htm> or contact Andy Perleberg at 509.667.6540 or andyp@wsu.edu

Forestry Field Day for City and County Employees Whether you live by a greenbelt or manage acres of open space or parks, this out-in-the-woods educational event is packed with practical “how-to” information that you need to know! Stewarding forestland is both rewarding and challenging. Your successful stewardship is due to the decisions you make and the actions you take. Attending the Fragmented Forest Field Day will prepare you to plan and execute sound practices which will enable you to protect and enhance those features you value from the land. July 30th, 2010 in Ravensdale, Wa

For more info contact Kevin Zobrist at kzobrist@wsu.edu

Joint Oregon/Washington forest owner's field day will be held the 28th of August. The location and venue is still being planned. Bookmark your calendar and stay tuned for upcoming information. Contact Andy Perleberg at 509.667.6540 or andyp@wsu.edu for more information.

News

Washington Farm Forestry Association would like you to know they are offering a onetime rate of **\$45 dollars** for one year. For more information contact Erica Norquist at info@wafarmforestry.com or 360.736.5750 or visit www.wafarmforestry.com .

Pest Alert, *Monsoma pulveratum*, pest of Alder (by Glenn Kohler) Please be on the lookout for the green alder sawfly, a new invasive defoliator of alder. It has been found at several locations in Alaska

SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE

Washington State Department of Natural Resources | 1111 Washington St. SE | PO Box 47001 | Olympia, WA 98504-7001 Phone 360-902-1400 E-mail SFO@dnr.wa.gov

and one adult was identified from a photo taken in Clark County, Washington. See attached pest alert. We would like to have better records of where it occurs in Washington. So if you see any distinctly green sawfly larvae feeding this spring, please collect specimens and take photos. Live larvae would be preferred (keep in a sealed ziplock bag inflated with air). Adults can be put in vials with alcohol. Please contact me for information on where and how to send specimens.

I'm also interested in reports of defoliation by other species of sawfly. Another species that feeds on alder is the striped alder sawfly. In fall 2009, we had a report of striped alder sawfly defoliation near Centralia. Sawflies resemble caterpillars of moths or butterflies, but they are actually wasps. One way to tell is that sawfly larvae have more than 5 pairs of prolegs (those sticky leg-like appendages on the abdomen). **Contact Glenn Kohler, DNR Forest Entomologist, at 360.902.1342 for questions.**

WSU extension has created a Facebook site as a way to quickly and regularly communicate with local forest owners. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Everett-WA/WSU-Extension-Puget-Sound-Forest-Stewardship/148183126376> Additionally, they have posted short videos on forest management on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/user/WSUExtForestry>

Green Diamond Resource Company has an area forester position open in Shelton.

Position shares responsibilities with other area foresters for planning, budgeting, implementation/supervision of IFM activities (vegetation control, reforestation, plantation surveys, pre-commercial thinning, forest fertilization, mechanical site preparation, animal damage control and pile burning) on 320,000 acres on western Washington timberland ownership.

Qualified individuals can request an application packet by calling (360) 427-4749, or e-mail bdunbar@greendiamond.com .

Judge: Forest Service Failed to Adequately Protect Oregon Steelhead Stream -US
District Judge Ancer Haggerty has ruled that grazing on public land in the Malheur National Forest has led to degradation of steelhead streams that the US Forest Service failed to protect.

The steelhead is a Pacific Northwest native trout listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and, according to conservation groups, the agency's grazing plan allowed livestock to damage fish habitat along more than 300 miles of streams in the John Day River Basin in eastern Oregon.

Officials Warn Visitors to Watch for Falling Trees - On its new website, the Roosevelt National Forest cautions visitors to watch out for falling dead trees when they visit local national forest lands: "When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road, you may be trapped."

Bark beetle-killed trees will soon topple by the thousands in the mountains of Northern Colorado. How quickly federal agencies and private companies can remove the dead trees depends on how much money is available to pay for it. *Loveland Connection.com (June 10)*

Stay on top of Fire danger ratings The leading causes for debris fires becoming a wildfire are failure to construct a fire break and failure to completely extinguish a burn pile. The public is reminded to please be sure they have a fire break around all debris piles they are burning and to be sure they extinguish their debris fire with water and a shovel.

Daily updates on burn restrictions are available at 1-800-323-BURN or on DNR's website at www.dnr.wa.gov, then click on 'fire information and prevention' and go to 'wildfire related maps.' The 'burn risk map' link is in the bottom right-hand corner.

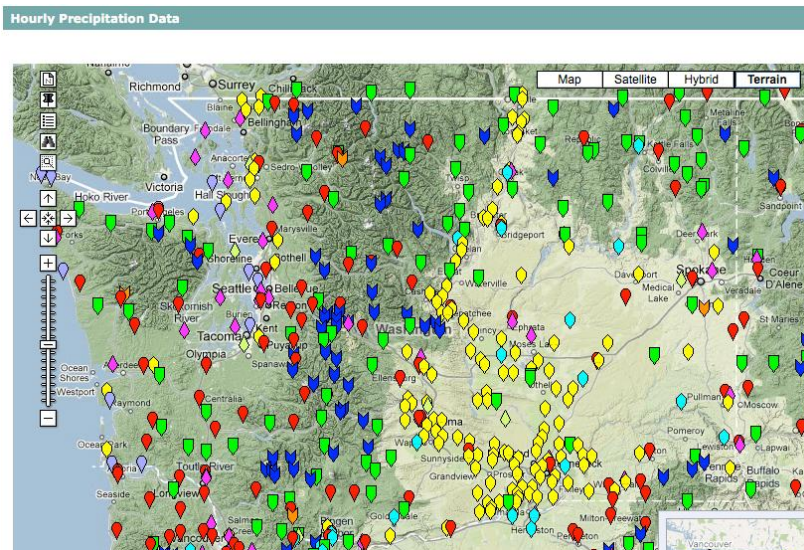
Weather Synopsis

Spotlight on the Agricultural Weather Network (AWN)

The Agriculture Weather Network (AWN) is a collection of 134 weather stations owned and operated by Washington State University. Most of the stations are located in agricultural regions of eastern WA, but a significant expansion into other regions of the state took place about 2-3 years ago. The stations collect a wide range of variables including, but not limited to, temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, solar radiation, wind, and various soil properties. The option is available to view this data in an hourly, daily, or monthly format. The data for these stations is available online at the AWN site:

<http://weather.wsu.edu/awn.php>. The OWSC site allows you to see the locations of these stations on our climate inventory maps and gives instructions on the exact links to click on to access the data:

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/maps/>. Figure 2 shows a screen shot of our hourly precipitation climate inventory map with the AWN station denoted by the yellow balloons.



Last month's newsletter featured the Climate Prediction Center's May-June-July seasonal forecast, which called for at least a 40% chance of above normal temperatures. Thus far, that seasonal outlook has not come into fruition, and the summer outlook (JJA) has since been updated (see Climate Outlook section). Rather than the month of May staying consistent with the dry and warm conditions seen throughout most of the state this winter, continued with the cool and wet trend that started in April.



May started out with a winter type storm that brought snow to the mountains (15" of new snow fell on Mt. Baker on May 2 & 3) and relatively low snow levels (about 1500 ft for the Cascades on May 4). A Puget Sound convergence zone (PSCZ) developed on May 3, and can clearly be seen on the 7 am May 4 CoCoRaHS map of 24-hr precipitation totals in King County (Figure 1). Strong sustained winds between 35-45

mph also affected eastern WA on the 3rd and blowing dust restricted visibility on major highways east of the Cascades. More information, including pictures of damage from the wind storm, can be found on the Spokane WFO site http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/otx/photo_gallery/windstorm05032010.php). Cooler temperatures settled in across the state on May 5. It was especially cool in Seattle with a daily record low high temperature of 48°F recorded at Sea-Tac on May 5 - only 3°F warmer than the normal low temperature! Temperatures quickly rebounded back to normal, however, and remained that way for most of the state through the middle of the month.

Links

Washington Farm Forestry

<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension

<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/index.htm>

Northwest Natural Resources Group

<http://www.nnrg.org>

Family Forest Foundation

<http://www.familyforestfoundation.org/>

Smallwood Utilization Network

<http://www.smallwoodnews.com/>

Ties to the Land

<http://www.tiestotheland.org/>

Consulting Foresters Directory

<http://cahedb.wsu.edu/NatRes/scripts/webMain.asp>

Office of the Washington State Climatologist

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/index.html>

American Tree Farm System

<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

Washington Tree Farm Program

<http://www.watreefarm.org>

The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) serves as a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. With a mission to promote the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners, the office seeks to develop policies that conserve Washington's privately owned non-industrial forests. Recognizing the significant contributions small landowners make to protecting Washington's public natural resources, the office strives to equip landowners with all the necessary tools and information they need to keep their land in forestry use.

If you would no longer like to receive this update please email us at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov or call 360.902.1400. The new format for our newsletter is web based. A link will be sent to you via our e-subscriber email system. You may have to adjust your spam or junk mail settings to allow mail from WADNR@govdelivery.com